

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND APS PARTNER TO PROMOTE CHARACTER EDUCATION

PRESCOTT – On December 17, 2004, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), APS and the Arizona Character Education Foundation will sign a five year partnership to help fund and promote good character education in Arizona. APS will commit more than \$250,000 over five years to help fund training and materials for Arizona schools.

“APS has been an integral part of the Initiative’s growth since 1999,” said ADE Superintendent Tom Horne. “As a company, APS shares my passion for strengthening Arizona’s educational system and the overall well-being of our children. Through their donations and volunteerism, they are helping to mold the future leaders of our state.”

APS President and CEO Jack Davis, Superintendent Tom Horne and other dignitaries will be at the event hosted by APS at the Yavapai County Courthouse, 120 South Cortez in Prescott, at 11 a.m., Friday, December 17. Area schools will be featured at the event.

The Arizona Department of Education’s Character Education and Development Division train educators, parents and youth organizations how to instill strong character in Arizona children. In addition, they provide materials and state-standard aligned curriculum to schools throughout the Arizona. These services are provided at no charge through the ADE and the Arizona Character Education Foundation, the Initiative’s nonprofit partner organization.

“The results of Arizona’s character education programs have been outstanding,” explained Horne. “With the support of partners like APS, the program will continue to help us improve student performance in Arizona schools.”

The ADE surveyed school principals throughout Arizona regarding the impact of their character education programs. According to the 742 schools that responded, 76% have a character education program implemented in their school. The results stated from the schools using the character education program include: 92% noted an improvement in the level of self-discipline in their students; 78% of the principals noted an improvement in school climate; and 69% noted an improvement in the level of respect.

For more information on the Character Education Initiative, visit the Arizona Character Education Web site at www.azcharactereducation.org.

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Results of Character Education Survey – 2004

Arizona Dept. of Education

Responses: 742* schools (of approximately 1,800 schools)

Responses That Participate in a CE Program: 565 schools (76%)

Those who participate in a CE program:

- 51% use Character Counts!
- 29% use their own Program
- 3% use Stephen Covey
- 2% use Character First
- 15% use other character programs.

Of the 565 schools that participate in a CE program:

- 35% noted a decrease in suspensions
- 55% noted a decrease in disciplinary referrals
- 78% noted an improvement in school climate
- 20% noted a decrease in absenteeism
- 69% noted an increase in the level of respect
- 42% noted an increased commitment in school
- 92% noted an improved level of self-discipline in their students.